

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application, and for the indication of allowable subject matter. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Claims 1-7 and 9-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §1-3(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,371,458, hereinafter *Heikkila*. *Heikkila* discloses a method for determining the stator flux of an asynchronous machine. A disclosed feature of the *Heikkila* method is that it is assumed that the stator inductance is previously known. See, e.g., the Abstract, lines 4-6; equations 5, 6 and 7 in column 3; and the specification at column 10, lines 18-21; and lines 4-6 of claim 1.

In contrast to the teachings of *Heikkila*, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method for estimating a resistance in at least one phase winding is in a reluctance machine having at least two mutually movable parts. The method includes, among other elements, receiving a signal indicating a voltage across the at least one phase winding, the phase winding having an inductance which depends on the mutual position of the two movable parts. Since claim 1 indicates that the phase winding has an inductance which depends on the mutual position of the parts, this method is completely different from the teachings of *Heikkila*, which assumes that the stator inductance is known and constant.

Furthermore, the solution according to claim 1 is advantageously simple, in that it does not require the complex calculations disclosed in Figure 3 in the teachings of

Heikkila. It is noted that the entirety of Figure 3 of *Heikkila* is included in box 33 in Figure 5 of *Heikkila*.

Furthermore, on page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner indicates that the *Heikkila* method "is a general method and is applicable equally to all types of machines." However, contrary to the allegations of the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that there is no basis for this conclusion in *Heikkila*. On the contrary, *Heikkila* explicitly states that it "relates to a method for determining the stator flux of an asynchronous machine when a stator current and a stator voltage of the asynchronous machine are measured. See the Abstract of *Heikkila*."

Accordingly, claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Heikkila*.

Claims 2-7 and 9-10 depend from claim 1, and are thus also patentable over *Heikkila* at least for the reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 8 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, this claim has been rewritten in independent form, including the subject matter of the intervening claims. No amendments have been made to the scope of original claim 8.

With regard to claim 11, amendments have been made thereto in order to conform that claim to the amendments and arguments set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Similarly, claim 12 has been amended to place it in independent form, and includes amendments similar to those made above with respect to claims 1 and 11.

Accordingly, claims 11 and 12 are also patentable over *Heikkila*.

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Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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